



Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS / EMA

Bob Nations, Jr., Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2013

Winter Weather Awareness Week November 17 – 22, 2013



Snow blankets downtown Memphis along the trolley line

With last week's flush of Artic air, the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, under the direction of Bob Nations, Jr., encourages citizens to "get ready" for winter weather, **November 17 – 22, 2013, Tennessee's "Winter Weather Awareness Week."** Winter weather can hinder transportation, limit communication, and cause wide-spread power outages. Follow these five simple steps to prepare:

1. **Learn the terms:** **Watch:** winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 hours.
Warning: severe winter conditions will begin in 24 hours or less.
2. **Create a "Go Kit:"** For home, work, and auto to sustain you and your pets for up to 7 days. Include: weather radio, ALERT FM, sleeping bag, flashlight / batteries, keys, food, water, tools (shovel, rope, booster cables, knife, windshield scraper, etc.), street maps, hygiene supplies, warm clothing, helmet, gloves, goggles, boots, cash, first-aid kit, eye glasses, cell phone, documents, family and pet photos, and specific supplies for special needs, infants and pets. Make it easy to transport in case of evacuation.
3. **Make a Plan:** Meet with family, friends, and co-workers to make plans for winter storms:
 - Tune up your auto. Keep a full tank of gas. Add an auto "go kit" (shovel, rock salt, scraper, flashlight).
 - Dress for winter weather (lightweight layers with a coat, hat, mittens, scarf, and boots).
 - Have alternative heat sources in your home (fireplace or propane heater).
 - During freeze warnings, open cabinet doors under sinks, let faucets drip. Wrap exposed pipes.
 - Install smoke alarms on each floor of your home and have an ABC fire extinguisher available.
 - Minimize travel unless it is an emergency. Travel with a buddy and use the roads most traveled.
4. **Stay Informed** with an all-hazard, battery-powered NOAA weather radio and an ALERT FM receiver.
5. **Be a Buddy!** Befriend those living alone, single parents, seniors, those without transportation, and those with mobility and medical challenges. Check on them during inclement weather events.

For more information about preparing for winter weather, please visit: www.weather.gov and www.fema.org.

End of Release